

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the examination of the present application evidenced by the Final Office Action mailed February 15, 2012 ("Final Action"). Applicants have added new dependent Claim 38 to recite that "at least one of the load segment outputs includes a plurality of power output sockets." Support for this amendment is provided, for example, in FIG. 2 of the present application. In the following remarks, Applicants will show that the pending claims are patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course.

Independent Claims 1 And 26 Are Patentable

Claims 1-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 7,181,630 to Kadoi et al. ("Kadoi"). (See Final Action, page 2.) Independent Claim 1, however, recites:

1. An apparatus comprising:
a plurality of segment loading indicators on a power supply and configured to be electrically coupled to respective load segment outputs of the power supply, each of the segment loading indicators operative to provide an indication of a loading of the associated load segment output of the power supply.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 is patentable for at least the reason that it would not have been obvious to modify Kadoi as alleged by the Final Action.

The Final Action concedes that "KADOI et al. does not discloses [sic] a plurality of segment loading indicators configured to be electrically coupled to respective load segment outputs of a power supply, each of the loading indicators operative to provide an indication of a loading of the associated load segment output." (Final Action, page 3.) The Final Action thus appears to concede that Kadoi fails to disclose almost every recitation in Claim 1. The Final Action then alleges, however, that "[i]t would have been obvious...to use the displays on the UPS devices to monitor the output sockets...to provide UPS device loading information at the local site power supply." (Final Action, page 3.) Applicants respectfully disagree for at least the reason that Kadoi appears to teach away from some of the recitations of Claim 1.

For example, in contrast with "a plurality of segment loading indicators on a power supply and configured to be electrically coupled to respective load segment outputs of the power supply, each of the segment loading indicators operative to provide an indication of a loading of the associated load segment output of the power supply," as recited in Claim 1, Kadoi is directed toward **centralized monitoring** and control of groups of UPS devices 1. (*See, e.g.,* Kadoi, col. 28, lines 14 and 15.) Moreover, in its Background section, Kadoi describes that "[w]hen a large number of the small UPS devices are used dispersedly as described above, an administrator who manages the small UPS devices has to visit each of the locations where each of the small UPS devices is installed, and has to check each of the small UPS devices one by one, in order to confirm the operating state and the setting of each of the small UPS devices." (Kadoi, col. 1, lines 57-63.) In the following column, Kadoi then states that "[t]he present invention has been made **to solve the problems described above**, and its object is to obtain an Uninterrupted Power Supply managing system, managing method, and program, capable of collecting and **centrally managing** a plurality of small Uninterrupted Power Supply devices, which are connected to wall sockets and whose total existence is difficult to understand." (Kadoi, col. 2, lines 30-36, *emphasis added*.) Kadoi therefore appears to **teach away** from providing "UPS device loading information at the local site power supply," as alleged by the Final Action. Accordingly, Kadoi appears to **teach away** from "a plurality of segment loading indicators on a power supply and configured to be electrically coupled to respective load segment outputs of the power supply, each of the segment loading indicators operative to provide an indication of a loading of the associated load segment output of the power supply," as recited in Claim 1, for at least this reason. It thus would not have been obvious to modify Kadoi in an attempt to supply the missing recitations of Claim 1. Independent Claim 1 is therefore patentable over Kadoi for at least this reason, the allowance of which is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 26 includes similar recitations to those discussed above regarding independent Claim 1. In particular, independent Claim 26 recites:

26. A UPS comprising:
a plurality of load segment outputs;
uninterruptible power supply circuitry operative to provide power at the
load segment outputs; and

respective segment loading indicators coupled to the respective load segment outputs and operative to provide respective indications of loadings of the respective load segment outputs.

Independent Claim 26 is thus patentable over Kadoi for at least similar reasons to those discussed above regarding independent Claim 1. The allowance of independent Claim 26 is therefore respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 17 And 33 Are Patentable

Independent Claims 17 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kadoi. (*See* Final Action, page 4.) Independent Claim 17 recites a UPS comprising a housing having first and second panels, as well as a loading indicator coupled to the power output and operative to provide a **visual indication at the second panel**. Independent Claim 33 recites a UPS having a rear panel output and a front panel user interface, as well as providing a **visual loading indication for the output on the rear panel**. In its rejection of independent Claims 17 and 33, the Final Action concedes that "KADOI et al. teaches panels, indicators and panels, but is **silent as to a second panel**." (Final Action, page 4, *emphasis added*.) The Final Action then alleges, however, that "[i]t would have been obvious to merely interface, indicators and panels in an UPS to manage the UPS since it has been held that **rearranging parts** of an invention involves only routine skill in the art." (Final Action, page 4, *emphasis added*.) But Applicants respectfully submit that modifying Kadoi in an attempt to provide a visual indication at a second panel would involve much more than a simple rearranging of parts, for at least the reason that, as conceded by the Final Action, Kadoi is silent as to a second panel. In other words, providing a visual indication at a second panel of Kadoi would require at least **creating** the second panel and then **creating** the visual indication at the second panel. Merely rearranging parts of Kadoi would therefore be insufficient to provide a visual indication at a second panel. For at least this reason, it would not have been obvious to modify Kadoi as alleged by the Final Action. Independent Claims 17 and 33 are therefore patentable over Kadoi for at least this reason, the allowance of which is respectfully requested.

The Dependent Claims Are Patentable

Each of the dependent claims is patentable at least per the patentability of the independent claim from which it depends. Moreover, some of the dependent claims have separate bases for patentability.

For example, new Claim 38 depends from independent Claim 1 and further recites that "at least one of the load segment outputs includes a plurality of power output sockets." As an example, FIG. 2 (provided below) of the present application illustrates first and second load

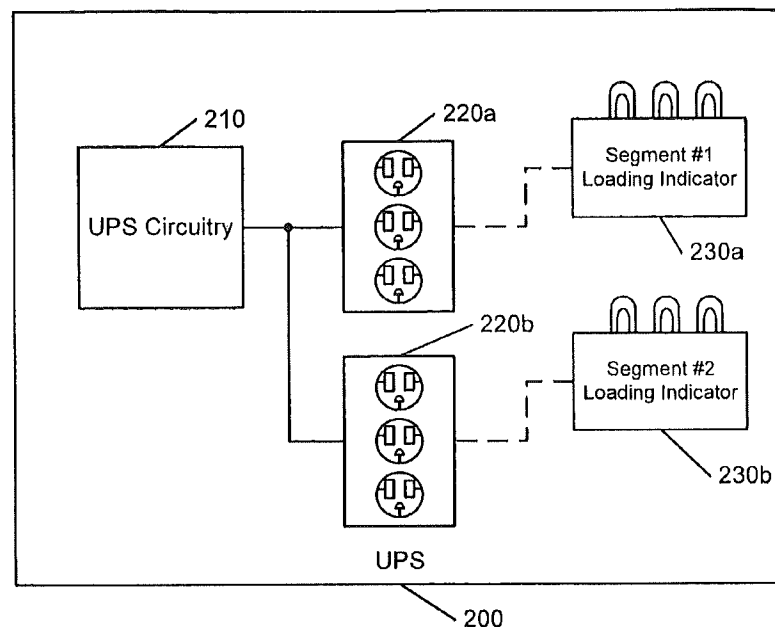


FIG. 2

segment outputs 220a, 220b. Moreover, FIG. 2 of the present application further illustrates that each of the first and second load segment outputs 220a, 220b includes a **plurality of power output sockets**. In contrast, Kadoi describes:

At least one load segment is defined for one UPS group 11. For example, when the UPS group 11 includes a plurality of output sockets and the small UPS devices 1 capable of independently setting and controlling these sockets, **the same number of the load segments as that of the output sockets** are set. As a result, it becomes possible to perform the setting or the control considering each of the output sockets as a unit.

(Kadoi, col. 23, lines 39-46, *emphasis added*.) In other words, Kadoi appears describe exactly **one** output socket for each of its load segments. For at least this reason, Kadoi does not disclose

In re: Johnson et al.
Application No.: 10/790,604
Filed: March 1, 2004
Page 12 of 12

or suggest that "at least one of the load segment outputs includes a **plurality** of power output sockets," as recited in new dependent Claim 38. (*Emphasis added.*) Claim 38 is therefore separately patentable over Kadoi for at least this reason, the allowance of which is respectfully requested.

As each of the remaining dependent claims depends from a base claim that is believed to be in condition for allowance, Applicants do not believe that it is necessary to argue the allowability of these claims individually. Applicants do not necessarily concur with the interpretation of these claims, or with the bases for rejection set forth in the Final Action. Applicants therefore reserve the right to address the patentability of these claims individually as necessary in the future.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and the allowance of all claims in due course. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,



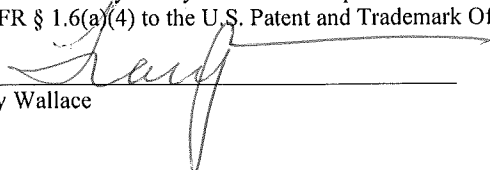
Vernon H. Guthrie
Registration No. 63,798
Attorney for Applicants

Customer Number 101681

Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec, P.A.
P.O. Box 37428
Raleigh, NC 27627
919-854-1400
919-854-1401 (Fax)

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on May 14, 2012.



Tracy Wallace